Some of the reasons attributable to the unsatisfactory capacity utilisation and part closure of the vegetable oil industry are :—

1. Unrestricted growth of the industry consequent upon de-licensing of the vegetable oil industry;
2. Inadequate availability of raw materials;
3. Lack of technology upgradation;
4. Cheap availability of oil in the International market.

(e) The steps being taken by the Govt. to revive oil industry include :

(i) Increasing the production of oilseeds and oil palm through implementation of centrally sponsored schemes of Oilseeds Development and Oil Palm Development programmes.

(ii) Improving capacity utilisation.

(iii) Inducing the industry to improve technology.

(iv) Making indigenous product competitive with respect to Internationally available oil.

DMS Depots at Vasant Kunj

907. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of DMS depots functioning in Vasant Kunj area;

(b) whether booths have been constructed for this purpose;

(c) if so, the places and Sectors/Blocks which are covered to feed the supply of DMS milk of the residents of the colony just like the Mother Dairy Booths; and

(d) if the reply of the above is in negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (d) At present

five DMS Milk booths are functioning in Vasant Kunj area in the sectors mentioned below:—

1.	Sector 'A'	Pkt-B	(booth no. 1771)
2.	Sector 'B'	Pkt-7	(booth no. 1915)
3.	C-8		(booth no. 2039)
4.	Sector 'D'	Pkt-1	(booth no. 1881)
5.	Sector 'D'		(booth no. 1921)

Booth No. 1881 located at Sector 'D' in between pocket 1 and 2 Vasant Kunj is functioning in the structure constructed by DMS. Rest of the booths are running in the space/structure provided by the local residents/Welfare associations of the area.

Damge to Coconut Crop

908. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the damage to coconut production by the attack of "Mite" that is widespread in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Damage to coconut is caused due to feeding by mites which remain in the perianth region of the nuts. The affected palms show profuse button shedding and husk drying. The nuts show longitudinal crack and it is very difficult to dehusk them. The nuts become crinkled and small in size. The difficulty in dehusking leads to rejection of affected nuts in the market leading to economic loss to the farmers. According to the Government of Kerala approximately 500 lakhs of coconut palms have been affected with coconut mite in 11 districts.